

Message Text

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11
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 EB-07 AID-05 TRSE-00 /040 W
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R 301905Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4163
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, JM, VE
SUBJECT: MANLEY VISIT TO CARACAS

1. CARACAS DAILIES JULY 28 CONTAINED BRIEF STORIES ABOUT JAMAICAN PRIME MINISTER MANLEY'S SHORT VISIT TO CARACAS THE DAY BEFORE. ACCOUNTS NOTED THAT HE MET WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ AT LATTER'S BEACH HOUSE ON THE COAST, TOGETHER WITH VENEZUELAN TEAM WHICH INCLUDED FOREIGN MINISTER RAMON ESCOVAR SALOM, FINANCE MINISTER HECTOR HURTADO, DEVELOPMENT MINISTER JOSE IGANCIO CASAL, MINES AND HYDROCARBONS MINISTER VALENTIN HERNANDEZ, MINISTER OF STATE FOR PRODUCTION CARMELO LAURIA, THE PRESIDENT OF THE VENEZUELAN INVESTMENT FUND, DR. CONSTANTINO QUERO MORALES, AND FEDERAL DISTRICT GOVERNOR DIEGO ARRIA.

2. GOV DID NOT PUT OUT ANY PRESS RELEASE, BUT ACCORDING PRESS ACCOUNTS, VISIT WAS PRIVATE AND UNOFFICIAL. MOST MINISTERS REFUSED TO MAKE ANY SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT ABOUT THE VISIT, ALTHOUGH LAURIA IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT VENEZUELAN AND JAMAICA DISCUSSED COMMON PROJECTS. ONE STORY STATES THAT IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT MANLEY CAME TO DISCUSS A BAUXITE PROJECT WHICH VENEZUELA WOULD LIKE TO UNDERTAKE JOINTLY WITH JAMAICA, AS WELL AS THE RECENT LINE OF CREDIT WHICH THE VENEZUELAN INVEST-
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MENT FUND MADE AVAILABLE TO THE JAMAICAN GOVERNMENT. STORIES ENDS

THAT JAMAICA IS ACTIVELY SEEKING FINANCING FOR LOCAL ROADS, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION CREDITS, POTABLE WATER SYSTEM AND DEVELOPMENT OF HOUSING AND LIGHT INDUSTRY.

3. TWO WORKING-LEVEL FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF JULY 29 THAT VISIT WAS ARRANGED AT LAST MINUTE. NEITHR OFFICIAL WAS DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH VISIT, BUT BOTH OPINED THAT JAMAICANS DID INDEED COME ASKING FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. NEITHER, HOWEVER COULD CONFIRM WHETHER GOV COMPLIED WITH GOJ REQUESTS.

4. COMMENT: VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT HAS TENDED TO GIVEPUBLICITY TO SUCH VISITS, PARTICULARLY WHEN GOV COULD DEMONSTRATE ITS LARGESSE FOR ITS CARIBBEAN NEIGHBORS. FACT THAT VISIT WAS PRIVATE, RAPID, AND THAT GOV OFFICIALS DECLINED TO COMMENT MAY HAVE BEEN INDICATION THAT THE TWO GOVERNMENTS DID NOT REACH AGREEMENT ON NATURE AND/OR LEVEL OF FINANCING JAMAICANS REQUESTED. WE FIND IT A MATTER OF INTEREST THAT COUNSELOR OF JAMAICAN EMBASSY, IN VIEW OF GOJ PRESS RELEASE IN KINGSTON (KINGSTON 3147), REFUSED TO CONFIRM TO EMBOFF THAT MANLEY VISIT TOOK PLACE. COUNSELOR CLAIMED MANLEY DID NOT COME TO VENEZUELA AND THAT PRESS MANUFACTURED ACCOUNT OF VISIT OUT OF WMOLE CLOTH. VAKY

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